

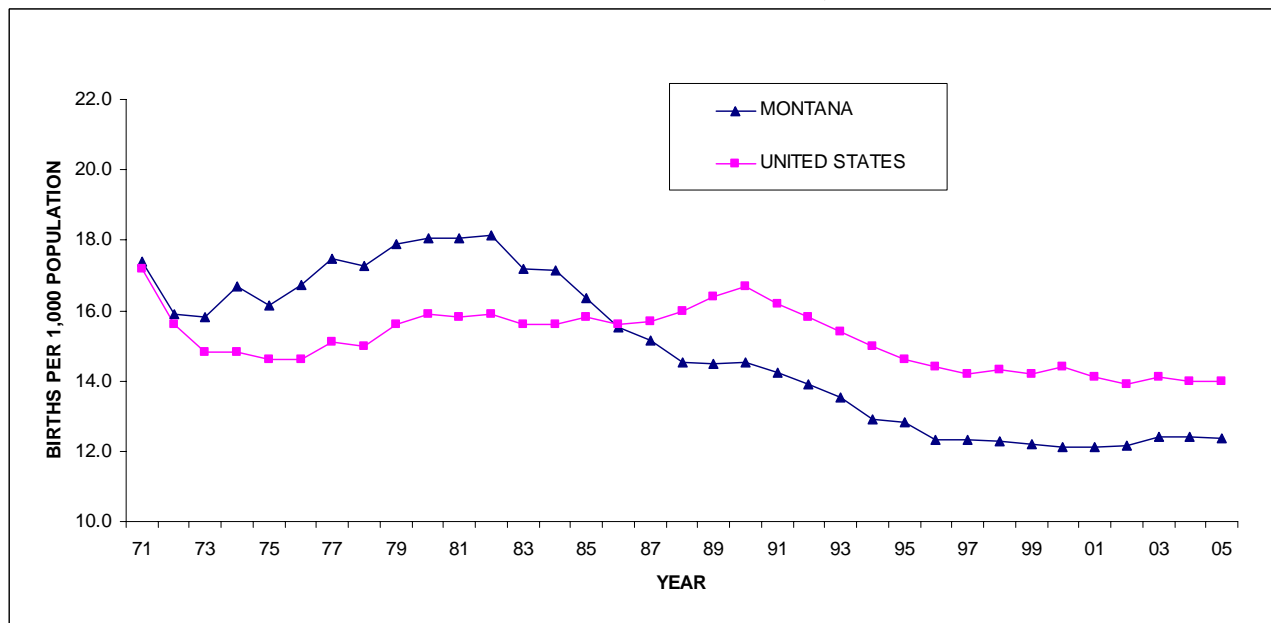
NATALITY

There were 11,573 babies born to Montana residents in 2005. **Table S-1** shows the frequency and rate of births occurring in Montana (regardless of place of residence) at five-year intervals from 1910 to 1945 and those to all Montana residents (regardless of place of occurrence) each year since 1946.

For the most part, the Montana birth rate has been in long-term decline since the early 1980s. However, the frequency of births to Montana residents has increased slightly every year since 2000, and the birth rate rose—again, slightly—to 12.4 per 1,000 estimated midyear population in 2005. These have been the first substantial increases since 1982. However, it is probably still too soon to identify this as a lasting change in trend. **Figure 6** below compares the resident birth rates for Montana and the U.S. for the last 35 years.

Figure 6

RESIDENT BIRTH RATES MONTANA AND THE UNITED STATES, 1971-2005



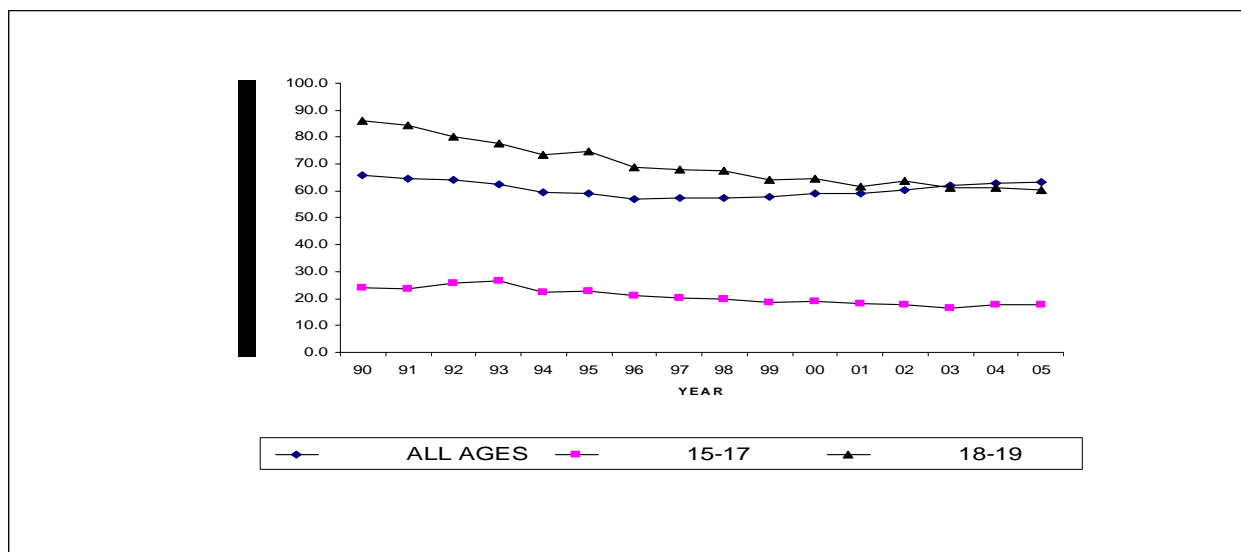
While the Montana rate exceeded the U.S. rate from 1971 to 1985, it began to decline in the early 1980's, fell below the U.S. rate in the mid-1980s, and has been the lower of the two since then. In 2004, the last year for which national statistics are available, only seven states had lower birth rates than Montana's. None of those states was West of the Mississippi River.

FERTILITY

The fertility rate, calculated as the number of births per 1,000 females of childbearing age (assumed to be ages 15-44, inclusive), is sometimes considered more useful than the birth rate for many analytic purposes because it is specific with regard to sex and age of the "at-risk" population. Montana's fertility rate since 1990 is shown in **Figure 7** for mothers of all ages, mothers between the ages of 15 and 17, and those between the ages of 18 and 19. This graph shows fertility rates for Montana mothers of all races.

Figure 7

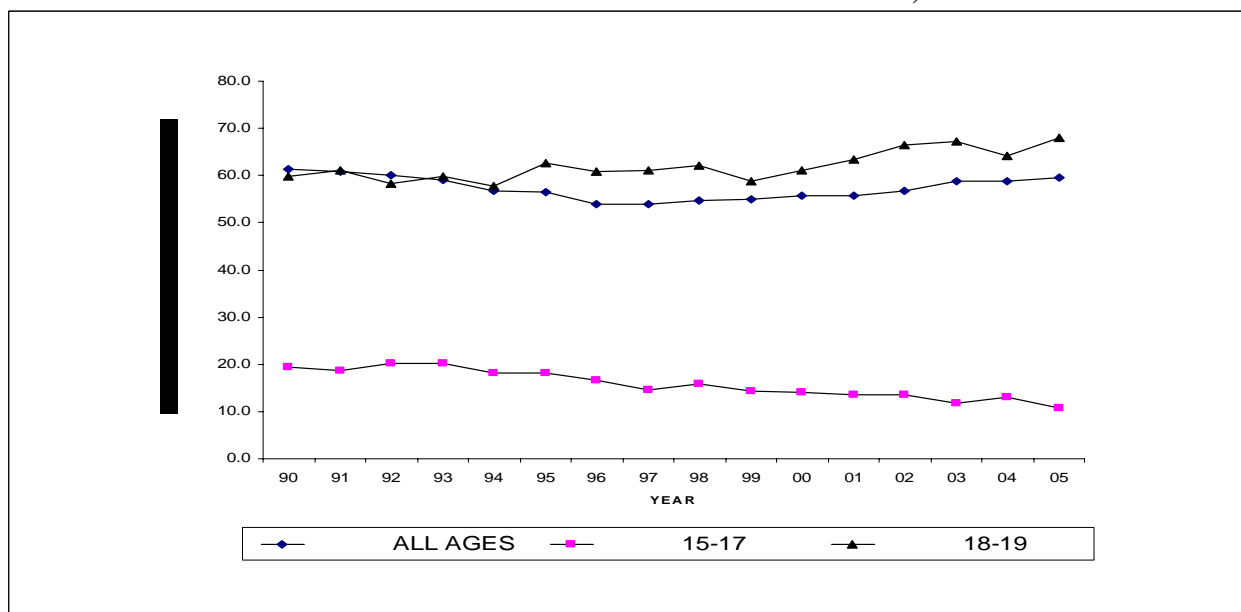
**FERTILITY RATES FOR MOTHERS OF ALL RACES
MONTANA TEENS AND MOTHERS OF ALL AGES, 1990-2005**



The rate of fertility among various racial groups can be quite different from those of the population as a whole, as is illustrated by **Figure 7** above, **Figure 8** below, and **Figure 9** on the next page. Examination of the respective rates for whites and Native Americans for the previous several years is revealing.

Figure 8

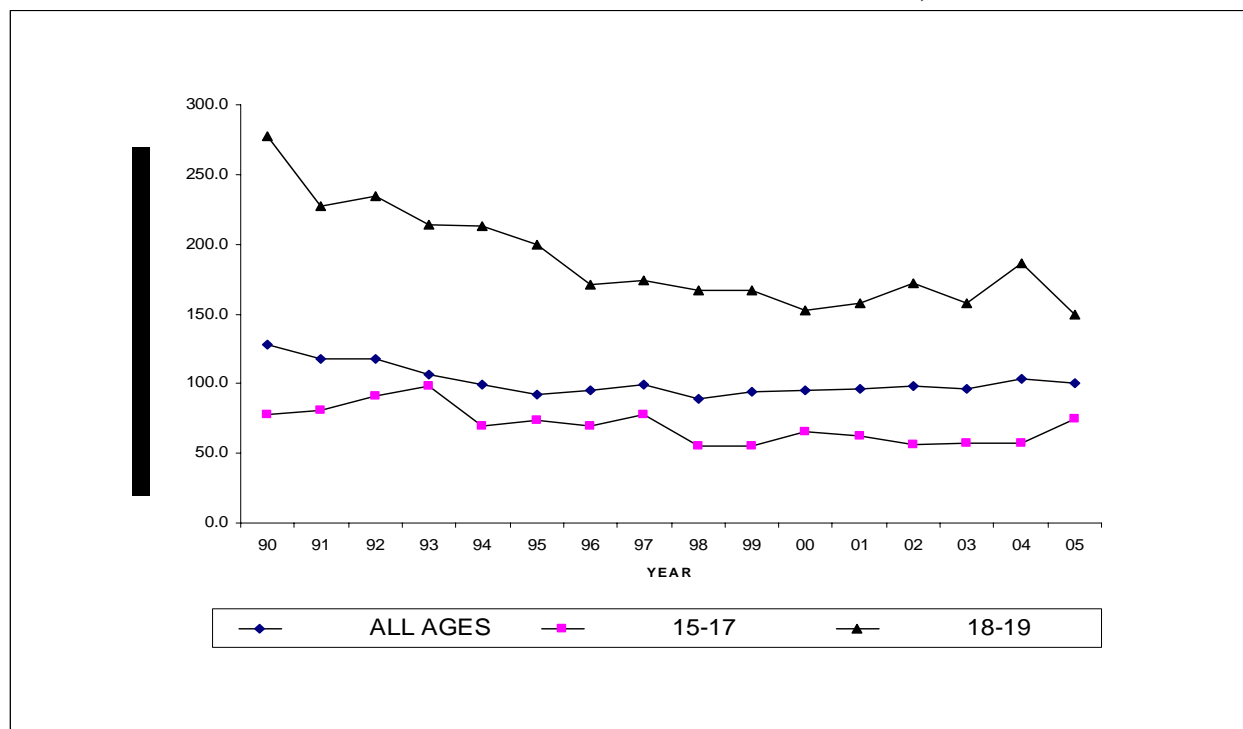
**FERTILITY RATES FOR WHITE MOTHERS
MONTANA TEENS AND MOTHERS OF ALL AGES, 1990-2005**



In 2005, the fertility rate for Montana's white mothers of any age was 59.5. The rate for white mothers between 15 and 17 was 10.8, and the rate for white mothers between the ages of 18 and 19 was 68.0. Fertility rates for Native Americans were substantially higher in these age groups—100.4, 75.0, and 149.9, respectively.

Figure 9

**FERTILITY RATES FOR NATIVE AMERICAN MOTHERS
MONTANA TEENS AND MOTHERS OF ALL AGES, 1990-2005**



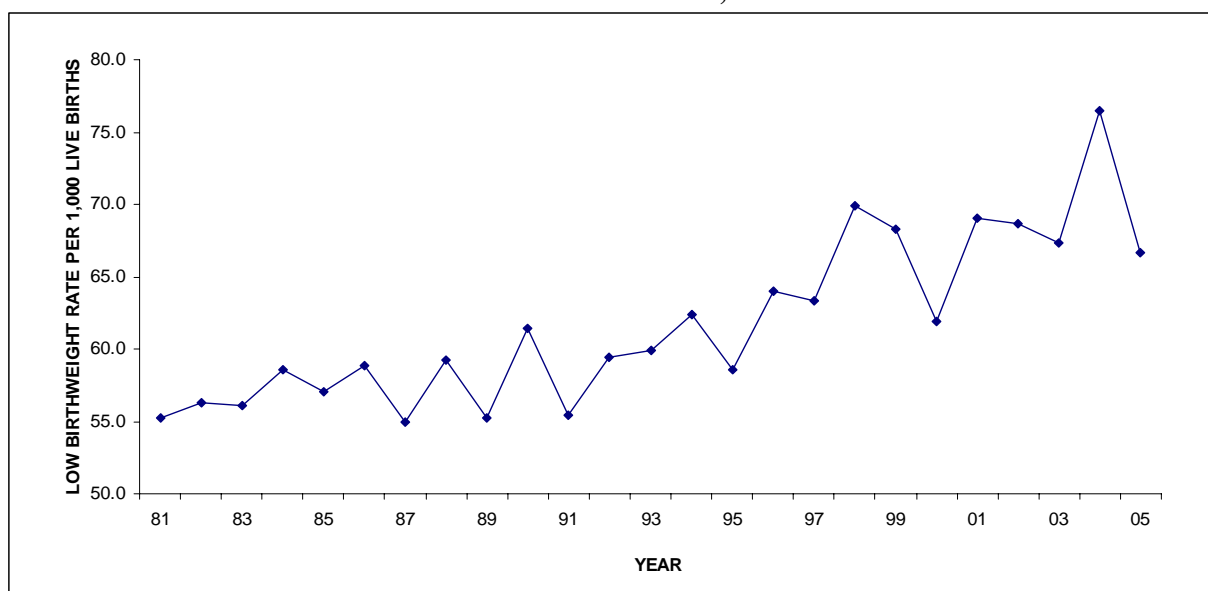
Rates of change for these fertility rates also varied among different groups during this period. While the fertility rates for Native Americans of these age groups were higher than those for whites in 2005, most--with the exception of the 15-17 year old cohort--fell faster during the preceding 15 years than did those for whites. Rates for whites of all ages fell by 3.1%, with a reduction of 44.0% for white teens aged 15-17, and an increase of 13.7% for white teens aged 18-19. Rates for Native Americans of all these age groups fell over this period; the rates for all ages, teens aged 15-17, and those aged 18-19 fell by 21.6% 3.6%, and 46.0%, respectively.

LOW BIRTHWEIGHT

Table B-3 shows the frequency of birth by birthweight category and the mother's county of residence. **Figure 10**, on the following page, shows an increasing rate of low birthweight babies born to Montanans. The rate was 55.2 in 1981 and 66.7 in 2005. While low birthweight has been identified by NCHS as one of the best predictors of infant death, this relationship does not seem to be the case (or, at least, is much more complex than a simple correlation) for the Montana infant population as a whole, as the trends of infant and fetal mortality among Montanans in **Figure 16** show. While the low birthweight rate trends upward, rates of infant and perinatal death are falling for Montana residents.

Figure 10

RATE OF LOW BIRTHWEIGHT BIRTHS MONTANA RESIDENTS, 1981-2005



MOTHER'S AGE, RACE, AND MARITAL STATUS

Those giving birth in 2005 were mostly married white women between the ages of 20 and 35 years. **Table S-8** shows the frequency and percent distribution of births to Montana residents by the mother's age and county of residence. **Table S-3** shows the frequency of births by the mother's race and county of residence of the mother. Any of the races shown may include women of Hispanic origin.

Figure 11

PERCENT OF BIRTHS TO UNMARRIED MOTHERS MONTANA AND U.S. RESIDENTS, 1981-2005

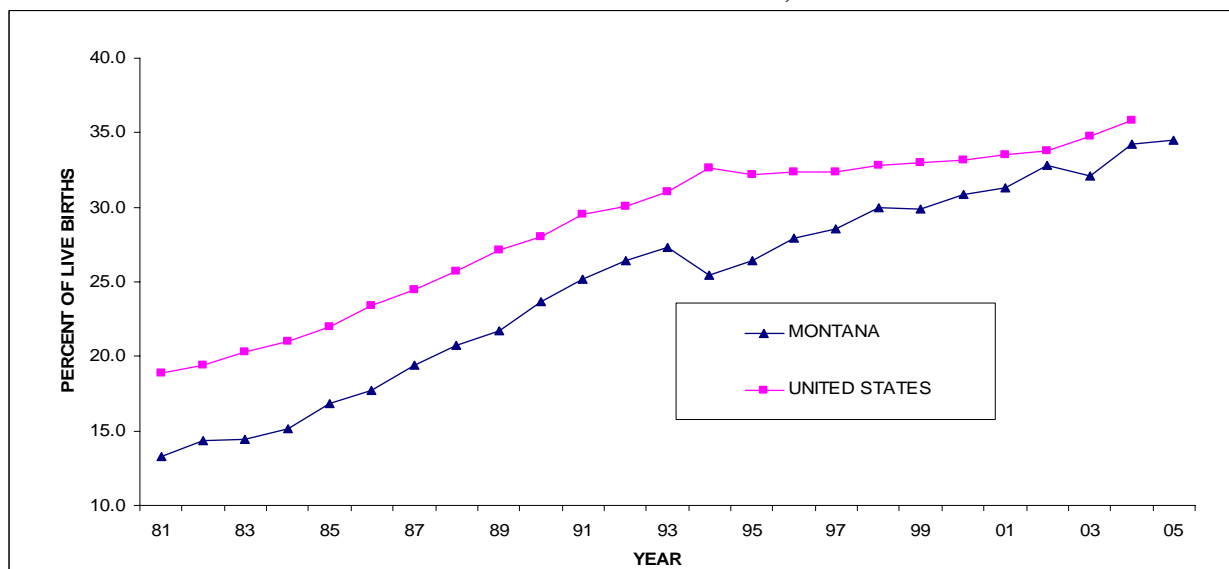


Table B-1 shows the frequency and percent of resident births to unmarried mothers for the years 2000 through 2005. **Table S-7** shows the frequency of birth by marital status of the mother for each of Montana's counties in 2005. **Figure 11**, on the previous page, shows the trend in those births to unmarried women for residents of Montana and the United States since 1981. Births to unmarried women represented 13.3% of Montana's resident births in 1981, 23.7% in 1990, 30.8% in 2000, and 34.5% in 2005.

By comparison, unmarried women in the U.S. accounted for 18.9% of the resident births in 1981, 28.0% in 1990, 33.2% in 2000, and 35.8% in 2004. The Montana proportion of births to unmarried mothers has been, for more than two decades, somewhat below the U.S. proportion. However, the long-term trend for Montana is increasing and appears to be converging with the national trend over this period.

METHOD OF DELIVERY

About three quarters of the infants delivered in Montana in the years 1996 through 2005 were delivered vaginally (including those delivered vaginally after the mother had a previous C-section). As **Figure 12** shows, the likelihood of a vaginal delivery decreases steadily with increasing age of the mother. This pattern holds for both whites and Native Americans.

Figure 12

FREQUENCY AND PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF LIVE BIRTHS BY AGE OF MOTHER AND METHOD OF DELIVERY MONTANA OCCURRENCES, 1996-2005

METHOD OF DELIVERY		ALL AGES	UNDER 15	15-17	18-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 AND OVER	NOT STATED
ALL METHODS	Number	110,389	115	3,867	8,710	30,646	30,786	22,903	10,829	2,395	132	6
	Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
VAGINAL	Number	83,515	102	3,294	7,190	24,343	23,397	16,374	7,267	1,466	77	5
	Percent	75.7	88.7	85.2	82.5	79.4	76.0	71.5	67.1	61.2	58.3	83.3
VAGINAL AFTER C-SECTION	Number	2,731	-	4	61	483	838	798	448	96	3	-
	Percent	3	0	0	1	2	3	4	4	4	2	0
PRIMARY C-SECTION	Number	14,556	12	548	1,251	3,905	3,813	2,954	1,598	443	32	-
	Percent	13.2	10.4	14.2	14.4	12.7	12.4	12.9	14.8	18.5	24.2	0.0
REPEAT C-SECTION	Number	9,567	1	19	205	1,911	2,735	2,774	1,514	388	20	-
	Percent	9	1	1	2	6	9	12	14	16	15	0
NOT STATED	Number	20	-	2	3	4	3	3	2	2	-	1
	Percent	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	16.7